

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to a non-statutory subject matter. Applicants submit that the cancellation of these claims render this rejection moot.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-8 and 10-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Stover (US 5,208,098). With respect to claims 1-8, applicants submit that cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot. With respect to claims 10-17, applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

It was stated in the Office Action that Stover "...is found to disclose each chemical and structural feature instantly claimed, therefore it must meet the property requirement specified, otherwise, applicant's claim is incomplete." Applicants submit that Stover does not disclose or anticipate a porous polymeric layer having an average pore size of between 0.2 and 10 μm as recited in claim 10. Likewise, Stover does not anticipate the features of dependent claims 11-17. Thus, the prior art does not anticipate the recited structural features and cannot be assumed to meet the claimed property features.

Thus, applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not anticipated by the cited art relied upon by the Patent Office, and applicants request that the §102(b) rejection be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the present invention as defined by claims 10-17 is not anticipated by any of the references of record. Accordingly, applicants believe that these claims are now in form for allowance. If further questions remain, applicants request that the Examiner telephone applicants' undersigned representative before issuing a further Office Action.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Clean Version of Amended Claims

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11. The cover of claim 10 wherein the laminate has a tensile strength greater than 1000 N/5 cm.